

THE DALLAS POST

SportsWeek

Section 2

Kids learn tennis a fun way

By KEVIN KAZOKAS  
Post Correspondent

TRUCKSVILLE — For young athletes, learning a new sport can sometimes seem more like a chore than fun. Hours spent practicing tedious drills or perfecting simple techniques can leave little or no time left to apply newly-learned skills in competitive situations.

As a result, children can become frustrated and may eventually abandon their pursuit of the sport.

That doesn't seem to be the case for participants in the youth tennis clinics at the Valley Tennis & Swim Club, Inc., on Harris Hill Road.

Children who take part in the program are taught the fundamentals of tennis in a new and exciting way. Instead of using a traditional, technique-based teaching approach, the program's instructors, U.S.P.T.R. tennis profession-

als Mike Balutanski and Rob Isaacs, employ a relatively new, game-based approach.

It's a teaching style that is advocated by the United States Tennis Association, Balutanski says, and a method that has been well received by the clinic's participants.

"It's fun and educational," observed 11-year-old Shawn Senese.

Senese is one of several children taking part in a six-week long clinic, designed for youngsters between ages 8 and 13. The club is also currently running a separate weekly clinic for children under the age of 8 and clinics for adult males and females.

Both children's clinics are being held Saturday mornings and will run through the third week of August. The adult clinics take place on Sundays.

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POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Anne Yoskoski, Dallas, stretched in a drill during the youth tennis camp at Valley Tennis & Swim Club.

Junior Softball Districts

Season ends for Back Mountain

By DAVID SHUCOSKY  
For The Dallas Post

DALLAS — Plains edged Back Mountain 4-3 in seven innings July 17 to claim its first District 16 Junior Softball championship.

Natalie Mitchell drew a bases-loaded walk with a full count and two outs in the bottom of seventh, bringing home Shelby Clause with the winning run.

Back Mountain grabbed an early lead on Ellen Morgan's RBI single in the second inning. But in its half of the inning, Plains took a 3-1 lead on Nicole Hoskins' two-run single and Erica Coskey's RBI single.

But Back Mountain inched back. In the top of the third, Kelsey Moody had an RBI single, cutting the lead to 3-2.

At the same time, Back Mountain used defense and pitching to keep Plains off the board. In the bottom of the third, Back Mountain turned a

double play. In the fourth, Morgan relieved starting pitcher Moody and sent Plains down in order for three consecutive innings.

In the top of the fifth, Back Mountain tied the game at 3. Julianne Pettit brought Kasey Corbett home from third on a squeeze play.

Pettit would eventually reach third base, but Plains showed some defensive talent of its own. Lisa Czerniakowski caught Moody's fly ball, and then threw out Pettit at home plate.

Back Mountain manager Rick Evans said the play hurt.

"It was basically a momentum-killer. If we get her in, it's a whole different game," he said. "But you have to take that chance, or you'll never get anyone in."

Neither team mounted a rally until the bottom of the seventh. Coskey led off with a double for

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Little League Baseball Sectionals

National lead is short-lived

□ Fall 2-1 to home run in last inning

By JOHN ERZAR  
For The Dallas Post

DALLAS — One swing of the bat by Conyngham Valley West's burly Austin Brodeur ended Back Mountain National's quest Tuesday for the Section 4 Little League title.

Brodeur's one-out, two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth wasn't the only factor in Valley West's 2-1 victory over National at the Back Mountain Little League field.

Just as a day earlier, District 16 champ National put runners on base with regularity, only to see them trot off after the third out.

So instead of playing for the section championship on their home field, they'll watch District 18 champion Valley West continue its quest for the title on their diamond.

Tuesday's loss was similar to National's 4-1 setback Monday to



POST PHOTOS/JIM PHILLIPS

Mike Eckman was congratulated by teammates after smacking a solo home run in the top of the sixth inning against Conyngham Valley West, giving Back Mountain National a 1-0 lead. But Valley West scored two in the bottom of the inning to advance to the Sectional finals.

"The kids played a heck of a game."

Bob Peron  
National manager

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Lehigh. In that game, National stranded three runners each on second and third bases. National loaded the bases in the first against Valley West with no one out, but didn't score. It did the same in the fifth with two outs. In all, nine runners were left on base.

"The kids played a heck of a game," National manager Bob Peron said. "We had bases loaded twice, we had runners on, but we didn't get it done. We didn't get that key hit when we needed to."

Valley West did. Andy Domnick's one-out double in the sixth was vital, forcing National to pitch to Brodeur. Brodeur had homered in the sixth in the teams' previous meeting, leading to extra innings, but National won, 5-4.

"It was the second kid, Domnick, that we needed (out)," Peron said. "If we would have got him, then maybe we would have walked

(Brodeur)."

That option eliminated, National pitched to Brodeur, who rocketed the game-winning homer well over the center field fence.

National had taken a 1-0 lead in the top of the sixth when Mike Eckman led off with a home run to left-center field. But National would later leave runners stranded on first and second, setting up Brodeur's heroics.

Brodeur's homer aside, Eckman pitched a strong game for National. Little League pitching rules prohibited National from using its top two starters, so Eckman got the call and allowed only two hits and one base runner in scoring position in the initial five innings.

"He threw a great game," Peron said of Eckman, who last pitched June 30 in a District 16 game. "We were hoping he'd get through this, and we had Casey (Judge) warming up just in case they tied it and we went extra innings."

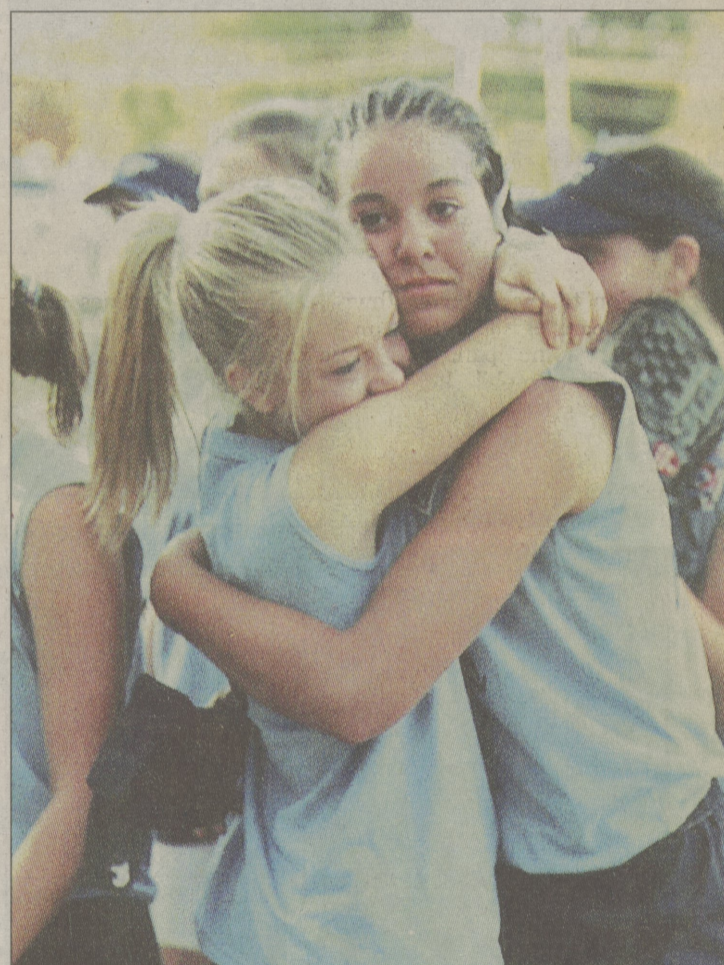
"But that kid, for some reason, he swings that golf swing and it goes."

Justin Eimers and Hunter Englehart had two singles each for National. Eckman added a single to his home run.

This article appeared in original form in the Times Leader.



Tommy Horn tried to lay down a bunt, but instead popped it up.



POST PHOTO/JIM PHILLIPS

Tara Domzalski, left, and Brittney Allen consoled one another after Back Mountain's loss to Plains.

2003 Kubis Tournament

Plains 13, Back Mountain American 11

Plains used an eight run second inning en route in the opening game of the Kubis Tournament. Eric Baines kept American in the game by scoring three times. Cody Plesnar drove in a pair of runs while Nick Lombard scored twice. Taylor Dunn threw a complete game in taking the loss.

Due to the Back Mountain National Team winning the district, Back Mountain is hosting the sectional games. All Kubis games will be moved back one week starting with games which will now be played on July 26 with the remaining games to follow.

Newberry Ladies tourney winners

Dolores Leehan, President, Newberry Country Club Ladies Golf League, has announced the winners of its tournament at the Four Seasons Golf Club, Exeter, July 17. Play format was captain and crew. The winning team was: Peg Thomas, Janet Dent and Joan Diana. Ursula Neyland won the door prize. Luncheon followed play at the Four Seasons clubhouse. Lillian McManus and Graceann Colarusso co-chaired the event.

Lake-Lehman sports physicals

Lake-Lehman Senior High girls fall sports physicals will be held Monday, July 28, at 9 a.m., at the senior high school. Students are reminded to pick up the physical forms at the front office prior to their examination. Senior high boys sports physicals will be held on Thursday, July 31 at 9 a.m.

Tuesday, August 5, junior and senior high boys and girls sports physicals will be held at 5 p.m. All personnel, including students, are reminded the district will be paving the front parking lot at the high school. No one will be admitted through the front entrance on August 5. Students and personnel must park behind the school and enter through the bus entrance, the 400 hall.

On Thursday, August 7, at 9 a.m., will be the final day for fall sports physicals any boys and girls in the junior high.

Steve takes State Goalie War Championship

Peter Steve, III, recently captured the Pennsylvania State "Goalie War" Championship for the 12 and 13 year old age category, during a National Goalie War Association (NGWA) sanctioned competition held at the Body Zone Sports complex in Wyomissing.

In recognition of his efforts, Steve was presented with a pewter goalkeeper trophy and a pair of championship Reusch goalie gloves. Steve is an 8th grade student at Dallas Middle School, and plays on the Middle School Soccer team coached by Lisa Niewinski.

Pictured at the PA State Goalie War competition are from left: Todd Hoffard, Director of the "One on One" Soccer School and former professional goalkeeper and Peter Steve, III, 2003 Pennsylvania State Goalie War, 12-13 year old Champion.



Send your sports reports by e-mail  
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